

CONTACT INFORMATION

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REFERENCES

Professor Vernon Henderson (Chair)
Department of Economics, Brown University
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Vernon_Henderson@brown.edu

Professor David Weil
Department of Economics, Brown University
+1 401-863-1754
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Professor Nathaniel Baum-Snow
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Professor Andrew Foster
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EDUCATION

Ph. D., Economics, Brown University, Providence, RI USA, May 2012 (expected)

Dissertation: "Urban growth and economic development"

M. A., Economics, Brown University, May 2007

M. Phil., Environment and Development, Cambridge University, Cambridge UK, September 2002

Dissertation: "Water, Sanitation and Health in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania"

A.B. with honors, Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA USA, June 2001

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Primary: Development and Growth, Urban Economics

Secondary: Environmental Economics, Demography, Trade

JOB MARKET PAPER**[Farther on down the road: transport costs, trade and urban growth in sub-Saharan Africa](#)**

Abstract: How does isolation affect the economic activity of cities? Transport costs are widely considered an important barrier to local economic activity but their impact in developing countries is not well-studied. This paper investigates the role of inter-city transport costs in determining the economic activity of sub-Saharan African cities. Sub-Saharan Africa is a relevant and important setting because of its high spatial concentration of manufacturing and low but increasing levels of urbanization. However, the lack of panel data on both local economic activity and transport costs has prevented rigorous empirical investigation of this question. I fill this gap with two new datasets. Satellite data on lights at night proxy for city economic activity, and new road network data allow me to calculate the shortest route between cities. Cost per unit distance is identified by plausibly exogenous world oil prices. The results show that an oil price increase of the magnitude experienced between 2002 and 2008 induces near cities to become 6 percent larger than otherwise identical cities one standard deviation farther from a major port. Combined with external estimates, this implies an elasticity of city economic activity with respect to transport costs of -0.2 at that distance. Moreover, the effect differs by the surface of roads between cities. Cities connected to the port by paved roads are chiefly affected by transport costs to the port, while cities connected to the port by unpaved roads are more affected by connections to secondary centers.

OTHER PAPERS

[Measuring economic growth from outer space](#) (with Vernon Henderson and David N. Weil), forthcoming, *American Economic Review*

Abstract: We develop a statistical framework to use satellite data on night lights to augment official income growth measures. For countries with poor national income accounts, the optimal estimate of growth is a composite with roughly equal weights on conventionally measured growth and growth predicted from lights. Our estimates differ from official data by up to three percentage points annually. Using lights, empirical analyses of growth need no longer use countries as the unit of analysis; we can measure growth for sub- and cross-national regions.

[The impact of climate variability on crimes against women: dowry deaths in India](#) (with Sheetal Sekhri)

Abstract: We examine the effect of local precipitation shocks on appropriation risk faced by women using annual data from 583 districts in India over the period 2002-2007. We use annual deviations of rainfall from the long term local mean to isolate the impact of rain shocks on crimes against women. We find that dry shocks (below-average rainfall) increase reported domestic violence and dowry deaths, as well as dowry payments. However, sexual harassment declines in dry shock years. These patterns are consistent with a model of consumption smoothing by those exposed to weather risks, but inconsistent with the alternative hypothesis that general unrest causes these crimes to increase. We examine two mitigation strategies. We find no evidence that women's political representation allays these risks. Access to groundwater irrigation worsens the effects of dry shocks, and mitigates those of wet shocks. These findings suggest that access to groundwater irrigation induces agricultural households to opt into risky agricultural practices that increase income volatility.

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Jones, Kate E., Nikkita G. Patel, Marc A. Levy, Adam Storeygard, Deborah Balk, John L. Gittleman and Peter Daszak (2008). [Global trends in emerging infectious diseases](#), *Nature* 451: 990-993.

Storeygard, Adam, Deborah Balk, Marc A. Levy, and Glenn Deane (2008). [The global distribution of infant mortality: a subnational spatial view](#), *Population, Space and Place* 14(3):209-229.

Wirth, Meg E., Emma Sacks, Enrique Delamonica, Adam Storeygard, Alberto Minujin, and Deborah Balk (2008). ["Delivering" on the MDGs?: equity and maternal health in Ghana, Ethiopia and Kenya](#), *East African Journal of Public Health*, 5(3): 133-141.

Wirth Meg E., Deborah Balk, Enrique Delamonica, Adam Storeygard, Emma Sacks, and Alberto Minujin (2006). [Setting the stage for equity-sensitive monitoring of the maternal and child health Millennium Development Goals](#), *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 84(7): 519-527.

Balk, Deborah, Adam Storeygard, Marc Levy, Joanne Gaskell, Manohar Sharma, and Rafael Flor (2005). [Child hunger in the developing world: an analysis of environmental and social determinants](#), *Food Policy* 30(5-6):584-611.

Balk, Deborah, Thomas Pullum, Adam Storeygard, Fern Greenwell, and Melissa Neuman (2004). [A spatial analysis of childhood mortality in West Africa](#), *Population, Space and Place*, 10(3):175-216.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Henderson, Vernon, Adam Storeygard and David N. Weil (2011). [A bright idea for measuring economic growth](#), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings* 101(3): 194-199.

Balk, Deborah, Meg E. Wirth, Enrique Delamonica, Adam Storeygard, Emma Sacks, and Alberto Minujin (2006). Multidimensional disparities in maternal and child health: Measuring a baseline, monitoring the future, in *Human Rights and Social Policies for Children and Women: The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in Practice*, Alberto Minujin, Enrique Delamonica and Marina Komarecki, eds. (New York: New School).

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Corruption on the road less travelled”
“Urbanization and Growth in sub-Saharan Africa” (with Vernon Henderson)
“Climate and Urbanization in sub-Saharan Africa” (with Vernon Henderson)
“Maternal cohort measures of childhood mortality”

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Consultant, World Bank, Development Research Group, 4 projects, 2009-
Research Assistant to Vernon Henderson and David N. Weil, Brown University, summers 2007 and 2009
Staff Associate, Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia
University, 2004-2006
Senior Research Staff Assistant, CIESIN, 2003-2004

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

Teaching Assistant for Nathaniel Baum-Snow, Urban Economics, Brown University 2009, 2011
Teaching Assistant for Nathaniel Baum-Snow, Intermediate Microeconomics (Mathematical), Brown
University 2010
Teaching Certificate I, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Brown
University, 2009-10

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Benjamin H. Stevens Fellowship in Regional Science, North American Regional Science Council, 2010
NICHD Demography Traineeship, Population Studies & Training Center, Brown University, 2007-09
Susan R. Kamins '82 Fellowship, Brown University, 2006-07
Leopold Schepp Foundation Scholarship, 2006-08
Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Traveling Bursary, 2002
Harvard-American Friends of Cambridge University Scholarship, 2001
McConnell Scholarship, Harvard University, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01
Harvard Club of Boston Scholarship, Harvard University, 1998-99
John Harvard Scholarship, Harvard University, 1998
Detur Book Prize, Harvard University, 1998

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Referee, *Population, Space and Place*; *Population and Environment*; Japan International Cooperation
Agency Research Institute; *Demographic Research*
Organizer, Applied Micro lunch, Department of Economics, Brown University, 2009
Co-organizer, Summer lunch, Department of Economics, Brown University, 2009
Graduate Student Committee, Population Studies & Training Center, Brown University, 2008-10
Demography Trainee, Population Studies & Training Center, Brown University, 2006-
Senior Fellow, Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences (S4), Brown University, 2008-09
Fellow, Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences (S4), Brown University, 2007-
Harvard-Cambridge Scholarships Selection Committee, 2004

EXTERNAL PRESENTATIONS

2011: North American Regional Science Council/Urban Economics Association, Miami (Scheduled)
CIESIN, Columbia University, Palisades, NY, USA
EconCon, New York University, New York, NY, USA
Midwest Macroeconomics Meetings, Nashville, TN, USA
Population Association of America, Washington, DC, USA (poster; discussant)
2010: North American Regional Science Council/Urban Economics Association, Denver, CO, USA
Northeast Universities Development Conference, Cambridge, MA, USA
WBCA Colloquium on Population Issues, Nairobi, Kenya
Population Association of America, Dallas, TX, USA
2009: North American Regional Science Council/Urban Economics Association, San Francisco, USA

- Northeast Universities Development Conference, Medford, MA, USA
IUSSP International Population Conference, Marrakesh, Morocco
Population Association of America, Detroit, MI, USA
- 2008: BREAD/CEPR/Verona Summer School on Development Economics, Alba di Canazei, Italy
Population Association of America, New Orleans, LA, USA (discussant)
- 2007: Population Association of America, New York, NY, USA (poster)
- 2006: Association of American Geographers (AAG) annual meeting, Chicago, IL, USA
Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) annual meeting, Boston, MA, USA
- 2005: UNICEF and New School University International Conference: “Children and Poverty: Global Context, Local Solutions?” New York, NY, USA
- 2004: ESRI International User Conference, San Diego, CA, USA
Save the Children, Office of Health Program Learning Group Workshop, Millwood, VA, USA
USAID MEASURE GIS Working Group, Rosslyn, VA, USA

COMPUTER SKILLS

ArcGIS, Matlab, Stata, Python, SPSS

PERSONAL

U.S. Citizen, Date of Birth: July 4, 1979